

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SAM-01

SAB-01 ACDA-10 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 /086 W
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R 181140Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7131

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3810

E.O. 1162: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS ON SPECIAL ISRAELI CABINET
MEETING

1. PRESS CARRY REPORTS ON JUNE 17 SPECIAL CABINET MEETING IN WHICH PM RABIN REPORTED ON HIS MISSION TO THE US. CABINET RESOLVED " TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE SUBJECT OF THE INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CABINET'S DECISIONS OF JUNE 8, 1975, WHEREBY THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WILL BE PREPARED TO REVIEW ITS POSITION, CONSONANT WITH CHANGES THAT MAY OCCUR IN THE GYPTIAN POSITION AS OF MARCH 1975. THE PM, THE FM AND THE DEFMIN WILL SUBMIT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR DECISION BY THE CABINET PLENUM. PRESS INTERPRET DECISION TO MEAN THAT IT IS NOW UP TO THE EGYPTIANS TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE. IT ALSO NOTES IMPROVEMENT IN US-ISRAEL RELATIONS AND STRESSES GREATER UNCLASSIFIED

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UNDERSTANDING IN US OF ISRAELI POSITION.

2. HAARETZ (GOLAN) WRITES THAT " FROM THE DECISION IT COULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT ISRAEL HAS SUBMITTED TO EGYPT,

THROUGH THE US, NEW PROPOSALS AND IS NOW WAITING FOR CAIRO'S REACTION TO THEM. ACCORDING TO SENIOR OBSERVERS IN JERUSALEM, THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL CONCERNS MAINLY THE SUBJECT OF THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MITLE AND GIDI PASSES. IT SEEMS THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR AN AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, ISRAEL HAS EXPRESSED HER WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE WESTERN PART OF THE PASSES, BUT NOT FROM THE EASTERN PART..."

3. YEDIOT (ZIMUKI) REPORTS THAT IT IS CLEAR FROM CABINET DISCUSSIONS THAT " THE BALL IS NOW IN THE EGYPTIAN COURT...THE EGYPTIANS HAVE NOT MADE YET ANY NEW PRACTICAL PROPOSALS...THE AMERICANS CLAIM THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN EGYPTIAN POSITION AND THE CHANCES FOR AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT ARE GREATER THAN IN THE PAST.." ZIMUKI ADDS THAT PM RABIN " RETURNED WITH HE FEELING THAT THE AMERICANS ARE NOW SHOWING UNDERSTANDING OF ISRELI POSITION..."

4. MAARIV (HARIF) REPORTS THAT PM RABIN AGREED IN HIS TALKS IN WASHINGTON " TO MAKE ANOTHER CONCESSION IN THE ABU RODEIS AREA, BUT WAS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE A CONCESSION IN THE PASSES...RABIN WAS READY TO MAKE THIS MOVE FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CLAIM THAT THE ONLY WAY TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT IS BY SIGNING ANOTHER INTERIM SETTLEMENT-OTHERWISE THE US WAS DETERMINED TO FORMULATE AN OVERALL PLAN...AND THIS WOULD CREATE AN OPEN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE US..." THE CONCESSION WHICH THE PM IS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE IN THE AUB-RODEIS IS TO ALLOW EGYPTIAN " TERRITORIAL CONTINUITY" TO ABU-RODEIS. HARIF REPORTS THAT ISRAEL REFUSE TO MAKE THIS CONCESSION IN MARCH.

5. HARIF ALSO WRITES THAT FOLLOWING PM'S BRIEFING TOTHE CABINET A DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE AND " MANY MINISTERS, INCLUDING SHEMTOV, RABINOWITZ, OFER, BAR-LEV AND OTHERS, CLAIMED THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID A DANGEROUS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFRONTATION WITH THE US IT IS NECESSARY TO REACH AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT. IT CAN BE INTERPRETED FROM THIS CLAIM THAT THESE MINISTERS ARE READY FOR ADDITIONAL CONCESSION LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE, ANOTHER CONCESSION ALSO IN THE PASSES...IT SEEMS THAT THE PM CONTINUES TO STAND FIRM EVEN UP TO THE POINT OF FRUSTRATING THE CHANCE OF REACHING AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT IF THE CONDITION WILL BE THE COMPLETE EVACUATION OF THE PASSES..."

6. JERUSALEM POST (LANDAU) QUOTES " HIGHLY PLACED SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT " IT WOULD BE TOO SIMPLISTIC TO ASSUME.. THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL RISE OR FALL OVER THE QUESTION OF DURATION...WHILE THE DURATION QUESTION WAS VITAL, THE

NEGOTIATIONS COULD STILL FLOUNDER OVER MANY OTHER COMPONENT PARTS OF A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT. THE ONLY POINT WHICH HAD IN FACT BEEN SETTLED WAS THAT CONCERNING THE JURIDICAL FRAMEWORK OF AN ACCORD-WITH BOTH SIDES NOW PREPARED TO SIGN A 'NON-USE OF FORCE' PACT. EVERYTHING ELSE WAS STILL UNRESOLVED: THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE., THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ON THE GROUND AND THE 'ELEMENTS OF NON-BELLIGERENCY'...ANOTHER VARIABLE WHICH HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE COMPLICATED EQUATION WAS THE ISRAEL-US RELATIONSHIP; THE NATURE OF GUARANTEES WHICH THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER TO SUPPORT AN ACCORD, AND THE LEVEL OF ONGOING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID..." LANDAU WRITES THAT SAME SOURCES " REFUSED TO CONFIRM CATEGORICALLY THE REPORTS IN SOME NEWSPAPERS THAT RABIN STILL INSISTS ISRAEL MUST RETAIN SOME PRESENCE IN THE MITLA AND GIDI PASSES COME WHAT MAY. THE SOURCES INDICATED THAT THE PREMIER HAD NOT BEEN DOGMATIC ABOUT THIS IN WASHINGTON.." VELIOTES

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